



Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE FAIR.

When a good many of us were boys, the good old Bay State was the only one (unless it were Pennsylvania) that had a State Agricultural Society, and held an annual show and fair regularly as the years came round. This was followed up until its spirit and enterprise became so thoroughly diffused, that the farmers of New England began to form county societies, and to have county shows. Old Massachusetts then ceased for a time to hold her State shows, seeming content to rest a while from her labors, and let the counties take the labor upon them of keeping up the social interest of Agriculture in her borders. In the meantime the emulation which she had kindled spread along into other States, and State Society after State Society was formed, until now more than half of the States in the Union have not only a flourishing State society, but also active county societies all in full activity. This state of things seemed to put the Old Bay State behind the others, instead of ahead, where she used to be; and it was thought best by her Board of Agriculture and others, to rouse up the State society again from its long repose, and put its machinery into motion for good, as of olden time. With Col. Wilder, Mr. Flint, and other active spirits at its head, it was this fall organized, and brought out as fresh and as youthful as if it were a new one.

Every one who visited it expresses the opinion that all its arrangements and the stock and articles exhibited were first rate. Circumstances, however, beyond the control of the Society or its managers, conspired to make the show of people less than such an occasion should have, and it was therefore not so successful in receipts as it ought to have been.

The weather proved to be cold and unpleasant, and that kept many away. In addition to this, a terrible tornado has just swept over the commercial and business world, tearing up from the foundations old "houses" and new, and rending and hurrying into confusion and ruin, the fixtures and means of labor upon which thousands and tens of thousands of the people depended for a living. These had no heart to come out on a gala day, and join in the festivities, and mingle in the joy and gladness which such occasions incite, and so they stayed away much to the regret of their friends who would have cheerfully made a sunny spot in their hearts if they could have had the chance.

In looking over the accounts of this show and comparing it with those of yore, the first thing that strikes our attention is the systematic arrangement—the classification of stock and articles—that has obtained since the former shows of this society.

Formerly cattle were cattle, and horses were horses, and pigs were pigs. Now we see them all grouped into classes according to their marked characteristics, and premiums given in each class, showing that the attention and labors of farmers are being turned to the cultivation of such classes separately and distinctly. Durhams, Herford, Ayrshires, Jerseys, &c., among cattle. Morgans and Messengers, and Blackhaws and thoroughbreds, among horses. Merinos and Saxons, Leicester, Cheviots, Cotswolds and Southdowns, &c., among sheep. Suffolks, Essex and Cheshires, &c., among swine.

This is an improvement which is also carried to some extent in classifying agricultural implements. We were pleased to see that the State of Maine has been honored through our neighbor Luther Whitman, of Winthrop, who was awarded the first premium on his Thrasher and Separator, and the first premium on his double horse power, both of which were exhibited by Parker, White and Gannett.

The New England Farmer in enumerating the implements exhibited says: "We were especially pleased in looking at the Thrasher, Separator and Cleanser, Whitman's patent, which seemed to combine everything that can be thought of in the way of threshing and cleaning grain. Where grain is raised in large quantities it must be an invaluable article."

We are happy to learn that this exhibition of those machines and the award of the committee, by bringing them still more into favorable notice, has resulted in Mr. Whitman's receiving several large orders for machines, which he is promptly filling.

The success of the Bay State Show in all its points, as a show, should be gratifying to its managers, and encouragement to go forward doing good as it used to in the days of its youth.

MULCHING—QUERY.

MR. EDITOR:—I noticed a statement in the Farmer, a few weeks since, that straw would do for mulching, in the absence of better materials. I have a large quantity of buckwheat straw that I would like to put to that use, but I fear the mice will work in it, this winter, and gnaw my trees. Will birch bark keep them off, in this case?—and is buckwheat straw as good as wheat straw? Or, would you advise me to let it be till spring?

E. C. MONROE.

NOTE. Buckwheat straw will make good mulching. Scrape the turf away from the trees, and put around the birch bark, or tea chest lead.

CHILDREN. To cure chilblains, simply bathe the parts affected in the liquor in which potatoes have been boiled, at as high a temperature as can be borne. On the first appearance of ailment, indicated by inflammation and irritation, this bath affords almost immediate relief. In the more advanced stages, repetition prevents breaking out, followed by a certain cure, and an occasional adoption will operate against a return, even during the severest frost.

LOOK TO YOUR GRAPE VINES.

Now is the time to take care of your grape vines, to prune them and protect them against the cold of the coming winter. Although we say it is the time to prune them, we do not mean to say that it is the only time in which it can be done. Any time between this and the warmth of returning spring, will answer. But, as in this climate we have to protect the vines in some way, it is well, and even best to prune them, for then you have less to cover up.

Pruning grapes properly is a great mystery to those unacquainted with it, and a very simple thing to those who are. If you keep in mind that wood formed this year, will push out limbs or wood, on which the grapes will grow next, you will have a very good guide in your mind, what to save and what not. People unacquainted with pruning are apt to save too much of this year's wood. One or two of the lowest buds or branches formed this year are enough to leave. These will, next spring, push out wood and flowers for grapes for that year. This is the principle of operation, but there are many modes of shaping and managing the vine on this principle.

The following communication which we clip from the Rural New Yorker, suits our notions on this subject, being a plan of managing the vine very similar to one we formerly adopted with success, and we are now training what few vines we have in the way recommended. It is on the same principle as that which we published last spring, illustrated with cuts.

EDS. RURAL:—The best time for performing this very important operation, on our native vines, has been for a long time a controverted point among good cultivators. All agree that it should be done some time between the cessation of growth in the fall and the commencement of the next spring. While many, perhaps the largest number of those who have given their views to the public, have practiced and advocated fall pruning, and given some seemingly good reasons for the practice, others have recommended February as the best time, and have not failed to furnish some very plausible reasons for so doing.

Those who advocate and practice fall pruning, claim that between the falling of the leaves in November, and the swelling of the buds in the following spring, a distribution of the organic matter—the matter which enters into the composition of fruit—is constantly going on through all parts of the vine. If this theory is correct, if such distribution is constantly taking place, while the roots of the vine are bound in icy chains, and the branches frozen, and the whole vine in a dormant state, then most surely fall pruning should never be neglected; for by delaying the operation until this distribution has all or nearly all taken place, by far the greater part of the fruit producing elements will be destroyed by the knife; whereas if the surplus buds are removed before such distribution has progressed far, the buds retained will receive nearly all this matter, and the necessary consequence must be a better yield of fruit.

On the other hand, the advocates of February pruning deny this distribution theory, and claim that it is safest not to prune till after the most of the extreme cold weather is over, because they say the vine is capable of withstanding a greater degree of cold without injury before than after being pruned. Also, that the branches of the previous year's growth are pretty sure to "kill back" some, whether they are pruned in the fall or not, and that it is better to let them do so before the vine is pruned than after. So much for theory.

In 1853, my vineyard consisted of eight rows of equal length, and the vines all of one age and of similar size. That year I pruned one of these rows in November and the other rows in February, and when the fruit was harvested I carefully weighed the yield of each separately. The fall pruned row produced 25 per cent. less than either of the other rows. This result at the time looked very much like an argument against fall pruning. However, not deeming it quite conclusive, I pruned two rows the next November, the same one previously pruned in November, and another. At the next harvest the yield of these two rows was quite equal, but not superior to that of any other two in the vineyard in respect to quality and quantity.

Since then I have practiced pruning my vines during any mild weather from the middle of November to the middle of March, and I feel perfectly safe in advising others to do the same. Vines should never be pruned with a dull knife, nor when they are frozen, nor when there is a fair prospect of a sudden change from mild to extreme cold weather.

On planting a vine let but one branch grow the first season. At the end of this season cut these branches back eight or ten buds each, or to four or five feet in length—build your trellis, and fasten these branches "right and left" along the lower rail of the trellis. The third season let these bare branches produce a branch from every alternate bud, and train them perpendicularly to the top of the trellis, and about the first of September stop them by pinching them off. The trellis is now filled with good bearing wood, and the next—the fourth season—the vine will produce its first crop.

After the first crop is taken from the vine the only pruning necessary to prepare it for another crop, will be to cut back the lateral branches, proceeding from the upright branches to two buds, and when they start the next spring but one of these—usually the one nearest the main branch—should be allowed to grow. The next year that portion of the old spur extending beyond the base of the new branch should be cut off smooth, and the new branch cut back as before to two buds. This same process is to be continued from year to year. It is well, however, to provide for an entire removal of the fruit bearing branches, as often as once in three or four years. This can be accomplished without losing a crop, in the following manner: Suppose there are six main upright branches to the vine; two of these may be removed each year by allowing a new branch to grow from the base of each to a sufficient length to take their places, and at the next annual pruning cut the old ones out; in this way the entire vine will be renewed in the course of three years. Of course it must

be remembered that the fruit is always produced on the current year's shoots, springing from the wood to the previous year's growth.

Where vines are planted wide, say from 12 to 16 feet apart, and trained on upright trellises—the very best mode of planting and training when the grape is cultivated for the dessert—I have found the above simple mode of pruning well adapted to the vineyard or field culture of our native vines.

E. A. MCKAY.

Naples, Ont. Co., N. Y., 1857.

SEWING MACHINES.

Among the multitude of labor-saving machines invented during the past few years, none, perhaps, are calculated to work a greater revolution in their field of labor, than the sewing machine. Like most other inventions, too, there have been many and important improvements made in them, since the first patents were granted. The greatest fault found with the first machines that were put in use was that the sewing would unravel, as it were, and the work could be easily pulled apart after breaking one of the stitches. This trouble has been obviated, in a great measure, and the usefulness of the machines thereby greatly enhanced.

Among the numerous patents, and combinations of patents, for these machines, there are but a few which have stood the test of practical experiment. Wheeler & Wilson's is one of these few, and from the numerous testimonials in its favor, we should judge it to be second to no other machine of the kind. We examined some of its sewing, the other day, and were much pleased with its exceeding neatness, strength, and especially the economy of thread as compared with the quantity used by some other machines which we have seen. They are adapted to all kinds of family sewing, and for any kind of sewing, indeed, except heavy leather work. Mr. Jona. T. Ellis, agent for the manufacturers, has these machines on exhibition, for a few days, at the bookstore of E. Fenno, and all interested are invited to call and examine them. We are satisfied that any one who has a large family can make no more profitable investment than to purchase one of these machines. They are simple in construction, easily worked, not liable to get out of order, and will soon save their cost to the purchaser.

We present an engraving of one of Wheeler & Wilson's machines, showing the style of the machine and manner of working. There are various styles of finish, at prices varying from \$100 to \$150. The Christian Advocate (New York) speaks thus of the sewing machine:—

"To determine the practical workings of this invention for manufacturing purposes, we visited the rooms of Douglas & Sherwood, manufacturers of ladies' patent relief skirts. This establishment employs 350 young women, who appeared healthy and happy, and 170 of the Wheeler & Wilson sewing machines. They use per week 20,000 yards of muslin, 40,000 yards of tape, 75,000 gross of tubes, eyelets, and brass fastenings, and turn out 3,000 skirts per day. They are Yankees, we suppose—if not, they deserve to have been. The experience of these proprietors in testing the various machines upon their work confirmed our opinion as the superiority of Wheeler & Wilson's over all others."

The value of the invention is measurable only by the evils it is destined to remove. Woman's activity is requisite in the great moral movements of the day. Advancement in civilization may be reckoned by her elevation. And in this instance mechanical genius has interposed to relieve her drudgery and yet doubtless to multiply her industrial resources, in the manner it has the labors of the harder sex. No intelligent father and mother should permit a daughter to leave home without the outfit of a sewing-machine. The piano, for which she might have no time, is of secondary importance to an invention that will relieve her of nine tenths of her toil at the needle, and substitute in its place, rational, graceful, and healthful employment. Already has a movement been made to introduce the invention into the public schools of this city. A distinguished and indefatigable friend, and promoter of sound educational principles, is exerting himself actively in this behalf. We found at Messrs. Wheeler & Wilson's sale-rooms a public school teacher, with one of her pupils, taking her first lesson on the machine, preparatory to its introduction. We hail this movement with peculiar satisfaction.

We hope to see these machines distributed broadcast throughout the land, until their cheerful hum shall become as familiar as the chirp of the merry cricket, or the long-lost music of the old spinning-wheel.

MAINE POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

OFFICERS ELECTED. At an adjourned meeting of this Society, held at the Maine Farmer office, on Tuesday, Nov. 4, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the year ensuing:—

President—E. Holmes.

Vice Presidents—Henry Little, S. F. Perley, Frederic Wingate, S. W. Coburn, John Currier, John Rogers, D. Forbes, Samuel Bateman, C. Chamberlain, Sam'l F. Dike, A. Garcelon, O. Gould, Wm. D. Dana, John Allen.

Recording Secretary—D. A. Fairbanks.

Corresponding Secretary—S. L. Goodale.

Treasurer and Librarian—Russell Eaton.

Trustees—Warren Percival, D. Cargill, F. Glazier, Jr.

Standing Committee on Fruit—D. Taber, I. W. Britton, N. Foster, W. H. Parlin, Calvin Spaulding.

Member of Board of Agriculture—D. A. Fairbanks.

The corn yield of Illinois is without a parallel for quantity—of the exceptional crops which are said to come only once in five years. A Chicago country farmer estimates that "they will not be able to command above 12, 15 or 18 cents" a bushel for it.

CURE FOR THE GARGET.

Some two or three years since we published the following recipe for curing garget, and from actual experiment in this vicinity, we know it to be a good one. Mr. Lowell Greenleaf writes to one of our agricultural exchanges, (we have lost the credit,) giving an account of his trials of the recipe, and its results, as follows:—

"Having had a cow that was almost worthless on account of bunches in the udder which rendered the milk bloody, stringy, and not fit for the hogs, I was on the eve of giving her up for lost, when I used the following recipe, which in three weeks restored her to perfection, and not the slightest symptom of garget has appeared since. I could cite numerous cases of perfect cure. And not only doubling the quantity, but also improving the quality of the milk and butter. Since I applied this remedy, my cow has, in two years, risen in value from \$20 to \$75:—

Recipe. 'An ounce and a half of hydrate of potash, at 440 grains to the ounce, will contain 660 grains. Put the whole into a glass bottle of sufficient capacity, with fifty-five table spoonfuls of cold water. Shake briskly, and it will be thoroughly dissolved in a few minutes; one table spoonful will contain a dose, the requisite quantity of twelve grains. Wet a little Indian meal or shorts and thoroughly stir in the dose. Give two or three doses a day. Keep the bottle corked tight."

For the Maine Farmer.

THE CHINESE SUGAR CANE.

MR. EDITOR:—I send you a sample of the China cane syrup, and results of a trial with paper of seed received from Patent Office, planted May 18th, on four square rods of land, and harvested Oct. 21st.

Suspicious that the "new plant" might be another "China Tree Corn" or "Rohan potato hump," not then exploded, I resolved that it should receive ordinary soil and field culture, and noting the first two months' growth of the "spiny weed," was positive that the explosion was complete, to the satisfaction of Maine farmers, at least.

But the "sickly sorghum," that was then looked down upon with the "acorn and ridicule" of men, and the "eldest contempt" of "pop" corn of superior growth; put forth its native powers in the following months, growing with such energy and celerity as to "astonish the natives," who were at last compelled to recognize its lofty "position" and "standing," and look up to it with admiration.

To test the value of the crop for syrup, the leaves and panicles were taken off, and the canes, juice, and molasses weighed separately. In six trials with 507 lbs. of cane, (the product of 4 square rods) the results did not differ materially, viz: One half the weight of the canes equals the juice, and one-sixth the weight of the juice equals the syrup. In trial of top and butt stalks separately 100 canes were cut in two, and the butts weighed 51 lbs., juice 26 lbs., syrup 44 lbs.; tops weighed 22 lbs., juice 11 lbs., syrup 1 lb. 14 oz., of quality equal to other. The juice was pressed from the canes with leather rollers, and clarified with an egg and a teaspoonful of saleratus, to about ten gallons of syrup. The result shows a rate of yield per acre of 10 tons of cane, or 150 gallons of syrup. Compared with what the books say of the "common yielding on proper soil in Jamaica," the yield of syrup is greater by 10 gallons.

C. S. ROBINSON.

Winthrop, Nov. 2, 1857.

For the Maine Farmer.

QUERY ABOUT ASPARAGUS & CABBAGE.

MR. EDITOR:—I have a large lot of asparagus from seed planted last spring, which I want to arrange in beds, and wish to have it done in the most approved manner. Will you please to give me some directions as to the best time to transplant, whether in the spring or fall, how to prepare the bed, how deep, and how far apart to set the plants, &c.? How can small cabbages be kept growing in the ground through the winter?

ALBERT STURTEVANT.

West Castleton, Vt., Nov. 24, 1857.

NOTE. In old times, gardeners used to have a good deal of ceremony in making asparagus beds, by paving the bottoms with stone, and using certain definite proportions of this compost and that, without which, they asserted, asparagus would not grow. Experience has proved this to be all unnecessary. A light loam, made very rich, pretty deep down, is all you need for a bed. The asparagus is a native of the seashore. Of course, it likes a sandy chance and some salt. It has a profusion of long stringy roots which like to spread over a large surface, and to plunge deep. Give them a chance, by spading up a light loam, two feet deep, and make it as rich with good old manure as you can. In order to have large stalks, give each root four elbow room. Make rows not less than a foot apart and two feet would be better, if you had room enough, and set the roots ten inches apart in the rows. If put nearer together you must feed high and apply the dressing often. In regard to the time of setting out, the fall is a good time, but be sure to mulch the bed well after you have done it, by covering over well with leaves, or litter, which may be raked off in spring. This mulching will prevent the frost from throwing the plants out of the ground during the winter and spring.

Plants used in this way, will do to cut by spring. They should be cut sparingly, however, until they are four or five years old. In the fall of each year cut away the old stalks, and fork in a lot of old barn-yard manure, and pour on some brine. This will keep up the fertility. You cannot get an asparagus bed too rich, but it should also be light and somewhat porous, and kept free of grass and weeds. By placing a hot bed frame over part of the bed and putting on a covering of fermenting horse manure in the spring, you can force the shoots quite early, and thus obtain a supply in advance of the remaining part of the bed.

Small cabbages can be kept growing in the ground during the winter only by protecting them by glass frames, or by some such appliances. We once knew a successful experiment tried in keeping small cabbages alive, not growing, by covering them over pretty thickly with hemlock boughs. This is not always successful.

Small cabbages, that have formed a loose finished head, may be preserved, and their heads hardened by the following process:—Dig a trench in some dry place where the water will not stand. Pull the cabbages up and place them together in rows side by side, heads down and roots up. Put a little straw over them. Place a couple of boards over the trench, roof shaped, heap on earth and let them be till spring. Cabbages treated in this way keep well, and small loose heads when put in, come out much more solid and firm.

Ed.

For the Maine Farmer.

ONIONS.

MR. EDITOR: I would like to say a few words upon the subject of onion raising, as practiced by myself, hoping in return, to receive the opinions of others on the subject, drawn from a more lengthy experience, and a more extensive culture than my own.

For the past twelve years but few onions, compared with former years, have been raised in the State of Maine, owing to the ravages of the fly, or maggot, which attacks the plant while small, and never leaves it until wholly destroyed. In the spring of 1855, I prepared a small piece of garden soil for onions as follows: first, it was thoroughly ploughed, and the lumps well pounded up. Then a sufficient amount of well rotted stable manure, and about one bushel of leached ashes to the square rod, were spread upon it. This being well hoed in, the ground was formed into beds, and raked off. The seed was then sown in rows, one foot apart, and covered one inch in depth.

The seed came up and grew finely, receiving plenty of hoeings and weedings. In the fall I harvested at the rate of six hundred bushels to the acre, of handsome onions as ever grown, some being five or six inches in diameter, and rivaling anything of the kind from Massachusetts or Connecticut that I have yet seen.

In the spring of 1856, the same ground was prepared, and sown in the same manner as the previous year, and the fall harvesting, produced like results, if anything exceeding the crop of 1855.

The past season, the ground was prepared and sown with the exception of the ashes, which were omitted, the same as the years before, and as well cared for, but the crop is a total failure.

Now, I would like to know if it was the application of ashes that increased the crop, the two first seasons, and the want of the same that diminished the present crop; or whether this difference is the result of a change in seasons, or the exhaustion of some of the ingredients of the soil. Perhaps some of your readers can tell.

Augusta Oct. 20, 1857. C. J. D.

For the Maine Farmer.

KEEPING SWINE.

MR. EDITOR: I saw in your paper, not long since, a query whether hogs had the rheumatism. You replied, you thought they might have it, and I thought so, too. I should not think it strange if many of them had the cholera, the dip complaint, the black vomit, and many other diseases, treated as they are,—shut up in a little pen about six feet square, on a plank floor, up to their knees in dirt, and no bed to lie upon.

A hog should never be kept on a plank floor, if he were kept there, before I knew the cause, and that becomes wet, (often they will wet it themselves,) they will often become lame, and they will crawl with their fore feet to the trough, and will make but a small amount of pork.

A hog should have a good tight, warm pen, on some dry piece of ground, with a glass window that can be removed in the summer season, and a door that can be left open to admit fresh air. There should be no floor. Make it as large as you please. They need not go out in the sun, it does them no good. If the pen gets dirty, just put in a cart load of horse manure, or chip dirt, or bog mud, (if it is dry,) and so you can clean your pen every week, with a load of almost anything you can pick up.

Your hog should be showered three times a week, at least. In hot weather clean water is best. I have no opinion of soapuds or butter-milk. A little brimstone once a month is good. Follow this method and you will have no sick hogs. I have followed this plan for many years, even to the letter, and always give them a bed to sleep on, and let the hens roost in the pen.

Edgcomb, 1857. LINCOLN.

SALTING PORK. It is important to have the pork well cooled before salting, and it should not remain unsalted very long after cooling. It should never be allowed to freeze. It should always have a great supply of salt, and of the strongest quality, and brine should be made and poured into the barrel. For if nothing but water is put in with the salt the pork may be injured before the salt is melted enough to make good brine. The meat should have a weight upon it to keep it under the brine; for if pieces of meat are permitted to rise above the brine, and remain there for any considerable time, they will be tainted and will not taste sweet, as well salted meat always will. A wooden cover is often used to keep the meat under the brine, but a stone cover is better. A hole may be drilled in a stone cover and a handle inserted at a very small cost. Agitation of the pork barrel daily will have the effect of preventing the accumulation of scum on the surface, or it may be skimmed off as soon as it rises.

SUGAR FROM CHINESE CANE. The Chicago press says that sugar has been made without difficulty from the sirup of Chinese cane, by Judge Caton of Ottawa, and Mr. Andrews of Chicago. They think there is but little difficulty in causing the sirup to granulate, by a process much more simple than the one patented by Mr. Wray.

"Everywhere the manufacture of sirup has been a perfect success. Nobody has failed who conducted the experiment with any sort of care, and the uniform testimony is that it is equal in flavor to maple sirup, or to the best produced at the sugar-cane houses. It is also proved that the cultivation of cane for this purpose upon the prairies may be made as profitable as almost any other crop. It is as easily grown as corn, costing probably not one half per acre what it does to grow the common sugar-cane in Louisiana with slave labor. Let us have free sugar and sirup, then, and plenty of both."

THE HUSKERS' SONG.

BY J. G. WHITTIER.

Heap high the farmer's wintry board!

Heap high the golden corn!

No richer gift has Autumn poured

From out her lavish horn!

Let other lands, exulting, glean

The apple from the pine,

The orange from its glossy green,

The cluster from the vine.

We better love the hardy gift

Our rugged vales bestow,

To cheer us when the storm shall drift

Our harvest fields with snow.

Thro' vales of grass, and meads of flowers,

Our ploughs their furrows made,

White on the hills the sun and showers

Of changeless April played.

We dropped the seed o'er hill and plain,

Beneath the sun of May,

And frightened from our sprouting grain

The robber crows away.

All thro' the long bright days of June,

Its leaves grew bright and fair,

And swayed in hot midsummer sun,

Its soft and yellow hair.

And now with Autumn's moonlit eve,

Its harvest time has come,

We pluck away the frosted leaves,

And bear the treasure home.

There, richer than the faded gifts

Apollo showered of old,

Fair hands the broken grain shall sift,

And knead its meal of gold.

Let rapid tidlers loiter in silk,

Around the costly board;

Give us the bowl of ramp and milk,

By homespun beauty poured.

Then shame on all the proud and vain,

Whose folly laughs to scorn

The blessings of our hardy grain,

Our wealth of golden corn.

Let earth withhold her goodly root,

Give to the worm the orchard's fruit,

The wheat fields to the fly;

But let the good old crop adorn

The hills our fathers trod;

Still let us, for his golden corn,

Send up our thanks to God.

POP CORN.

I am apprehensive that the value of the common (now quite common) white pop corn, as an article of healthful and economic food, is not appreciated. Under the Jewish dispensation, unleavened bread was an article of prime necessity, and made such by an almost imperative command from heaven. It is not my purpose to show how far the Jewish law of dietetics may, or may not, have harmonized with the light which modern science has thrown upon our physiological organization; but I can readily perceive that the use of unleavened bread was instituted for wise purposes, quite as readily as I can appreciate the reason, in a warm country like Judea, for the interdiction of swine's flesh. All leavened bread must of necessity contain some substance not congenial to the highest or healthiest development of the organs of nutrition. The process of vinous or saccharine fermentation, by disengaging a portion of the carbon and oxygen, destroys a portion of the nutritive matter in bread; and in some of the lighter bakers' loaves this process has evidently been permitted to go on until about as much nutrition is left as may be found in a common bass-wood chip. The common hock of Virginia, which is nearly identical with the Johnny-cake of New-England, is more nutritious than the yeast risen loaves from the best wheaten flour, because no part of the nutritive principle is disengaged by the process of baking. Thus, popped corn, while it is lighter than the lightest wheaten loaf, retains all the original nutrition of the grain, without being encumbered with any unhealthy ingredient. As an article of food, whether eaten dry, or in milk, it is palatable to almost every one. Children consider it a great treat, and yet how few families use it freely!

I consider the pop corn as easy a crop to raise as any other. In fact, though my own experiments have been on a small scale, I am satisfied that I can raise as large a measure of this, as of the common yellow corn, upon a given space. True, the care of the pop corn are much smaller; but then it will bear being planted much nearer together, and the average of ears upon a stalk is nearly double that of any other variety of corn I have ever cultivated. My f



THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 12, 1887.

LICENSE OR PUBLICATION.

Without doubt, the question of a change in our present laws with regard to marriage, especially that part requiring publication of intentions, will be brought before the legislature at their approaching session. One who has not given this matter particular attention would be surprised to see the long list of marriages of Maine people in Portsmouth and Dover, N. H., which appear weekly in the papers of those two cities. Many also go to Massachusetts and Rhode Island, where they can purchase a "certificate" of the town or city clerk, and be married without publication.

The provision requiring the posting in some public place, of intentions of marriage, at least three Sabbath before the ceremony is performed, seems, since the abolition of the laws of 1852, peculiarly objectionable to the citizens of our State. There is, doubtless, much to be urged in its favor, and that it is the cherished custom of our fathers is not the least of its claims upon us. Still, having once enjoyed the freedom from forms, and the exemption from publicity—so much dreaded by many bashful swains and timid damsels—which the special license law afforded, it is hard to reinstate the old order of things. One of the great objections to the law of 1852, was that minors frequently took advantage of its provisions to make runaway matches. Did the present law remedy that evil, it would be a good and sufficient reason for its continuance. But, so long as licenses can be procured in our neighboring States, and the means of reaching them are so various and so easily taken advantage of, a runaway match may be almost as easily made as before.

Many and good arguments could easily be found in favor of either statute, but we think the public demand, and will be satisfied only with, the restoration of the law repealed by the last Legislature. To the clergy, who find themselves at once deprived of no inconsiderable portions of the receipts incidental to their profession, its re-enactment will be peculiarly gratifying, in view of the present hard times. Last, but not least, those young ladies who are blessed (?) with bashful lovers, will, one and all, give their unanimous approbation to any measure which will free the lovers aforesaid from their terrors of a public "posting." And, with the public, the clergy, and the young ladies in its favor, what measure could not be carried?

THE INDIAN SUMMER.

Our autumn would be cheerless indeed, if it were not for those periods of peculiarly mild, hazy, smoky, quiet weather, called the "Indian summer." It seems to last down so gently from the warm exultant season of summer, into the low stages of winter, that the descent is hardly felt, and the influence of the soothing dreamy weather, makes us resigned to the change.

J. J. Smith in the last number of his Horticulturalist, quotes the following beautiful description of this season, from DeQuincy's "Confessions of an English Opium Eater."

"It was a day belonging to a brief and pathetic season of farewell summer resurrection, which, under one name or another, is known almost everywhere. It is that last brief resurrection of summer in its most brilliant memorials, a resurrection that has no root in the past, nor steady gleams from the future, like the lambent and fitful gleams from an expiring lamp, mimicking what is called 'the lightning before death' in sick patients, when close upon their end. There is a feeling of the conflict that has been going on between the lingering powers of summer and the strengthening powers of winter, not unlike that which by antagonistic forces in some deadly inflammation, hurries forward through fierce struggles, into the final repose of mortification. For a time the equilibrium has been maintained between the hostile forces, but at last the antagonism is overthrown, the victory is accomplished for the powers that fight on the side of death. Simultaneously with the conflict, the pain of conflict has departed, and thereupon, the gentle process of collapsing life, no longer fretted by counter-movements, slips away with holy peace, into the noiseless depths of the Infinite,—so sweet, so ghostly, in its soft, golden smiles,—silent as a dream, and quiet as the dying trance of a saint, faded through all its transient stages this departing day."

THANKSGIVING DAY.

The following table shows what States have thus far appointed Thanksgiving, and on what days:

Maine,	Nov. 19	Pennsylvania,	Nov. 26
Mississippi,	" 19	Maryland,	" 26
South Carolina,	" 19	Delaware,	" 26
Connecticut,	" 26	New Jersey,	" 26
New Hampshire,	" 26	Iowa,	" 26
Massachusetts,	" 26	Michigan,	" 26
Rhode Island,	" 26	North Carolina,	" 26
New York,	" 26	Vermont,	Dec. 3
Ohio,	" 26		

As a model of brevity we give the proclamation of the Governor of Rhode Island, as follows:

"Our lives have been preserved. We have been protected from famine and pestilence. We have had continued unto us the full enjoyment of our civil and religious privileges. Peace has been maintained in our land, the gracious promise of 'seed time and harvest,' by which our whole country is so generously blessed, has been fulfilled.

Above all, our grateful acknowledgments are due for the religion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, which, in our prosperity, directs us to the more enduring riches of eternity, and in adversity provides us with an unfailing source of consolation and highest hope.

And I do earnestly request the cooperation of my fellow citizens throughout the State, in a proper observance of this day, by abstention from all unnecessary labor, and attendance upon public worship, and in the exercise of that benevolence which makes itself doubly blessed."

A GOLDEN WEDDING. Very few, comparatively, are those married couples to whom is granted the privilege of observing the pleasing custom of German origin, entitled the Golden Wedding, or the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. We have several times of late, seen notices of such parties, in our exchanges, and we are pleased to note in the Argus, a statement that Gov. Williams appointed the 19th inst., for a day of Thanksgiving, partly in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the marriage of his father, Hon. Reuel Williams, of this city, which is to be duly honored by a Golden Wedding party.

CATTLE SHOW REPORTS. We have received and shall endeavor to find room in our next for the reports of the town cattle show at Bridgework, and the Lincoln County Ag. Society.

NOT RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE. We notice in last week's Boston papers that the bills of the Grocers' Bank, Bangor, are not received at the Suffolk Bank.

THE LATE ELECTIONS.

Elections were held last week in the States of Massachusetts, New York, Maryland, New Jersey, Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana.

In Massachusetts, the Republican candidate for Governor, N. P. Banks, was elected by a plurality of 23,763 over Gardner, (American), the present incumbent. The vote in all but four towns, stood, Banks, 61,407; Gardner, 37,644; Beach, (Dem.), 30,902; all others, 179. The legislative stands,—Senate, 33 Republicans, 2 Americans, 3 Democrats, and 2 doubtful. House, 166 Republicans, 34 Americans, 36 Democrats, and nine districts to hear from. The entire Republican State ticket is elected.

In New York the Democrats were successful. A despatch from Albany, dated Friday evening, says:—

The Evening Journal's footing gives the State to the Democrats by about ten thousand majority. It claims 16 Senators to 13 Democrats, 2 Americans and 1 Independent. They make the Assembly stand 57 Republicans, including 9 Americans, and 61 Democrats.

The Atlas and Argus to-night figures the Democratic majorities at 52,527, and the Republican majorities at 39,392. Democratic majority 13,135. They claim 14 Democratic Senators. Burroughs, Democrat, is elected in the Delaware district, and makes the House stand 62 Democrats, 59 Republicans, and 7 Americans.

The election passed off very quietly in New York city, owing, say the papers, "to the faithful enforcement of the laws forbidding the sale of intoxicating liquors on election day, and the erecting of booths for the distribution of tickets within a hundred and fifty feet of the polls."

The Maryland election also passed off without any of the disturbances dreaded by the Governor. A despatch from Baltimore, dated the 6th inst., says:—

Returns from the State do not vary materially from last year. The Americans will have a majority in both branches of the Legislature. The Congressmen in the 1st and 5th districts are yet undecided.

The Democrats carried both branches of the New Jersey Legislature.

At the county election, yesterday, says a despatch from Chicago, the entire Republican ticket was elected by about 1700 majority.

The Daily Wisconsin (Milwaukee), of Thursday evening, says the returns are favorable to Randall, the republican candidate, who is undoubtedly elected by 5000 majority. The republicans have a majority in both branches of the Legislature.

In Louisiana, the Democrats carried their whole State ticket. Three Democrats and one American are elected to Congress. The Legislature is Democratic.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. The number for the present week (703) presents the following attractive table of contents:—Life of Charlotte Bronte; "Janet's Repentance"—part IV.; three articles from the Economist upon the state of affairs in India; "Within Delhi;" "Napoleon and Alexander;" "The Women;" and a number of short articles. This standard periodical needs but to be seen and read to be appreciated. The monthly made up from the choicest articles published in its pages, will be found a very valuable work. Published by E. Littell & Co., Boston. Terms—weekly edition, \$6 a year; monthly, \$3 a year.

KNICKERBOCKER MAGAZINE. We have hardly time to give that attention to the November number of Old Knick which it deserves. "A Night on the Frontier," is a very readable article. "Trouting in Northern New Hampshire," is another. The Editor's Table contains a number of good things, of which we have marked several for future publication. We are sorry to note in this number the announcement of the death of Mr. S. Hueston, late publisher of the Knickerbocker, at the age of 49. May he rest in peace.

RURAL AFFAIRS. From Luther Tucker & Son, Albany, N. Y., publishers of the Albany Cultivator, we have received a copy of a new work just issued by them of much value to farmers, gardeners, and all others who have any interest in matters pertaining to agriculture or horticulture. It is made up of the Annual Register of Rural Affairs, for the years 1855-67, and contains 336 pages and 440 engravings. Sent free of postage for \$1.00—a cheap book.

CONTEMPORARY HARMONY. A Collection of the most celebrated Psalm Tunes, Anthems, and favorite pieces; designed particularly for "Old Folks' Concerts," and the social circle. Boston: Oliver Ditson & Co.

THE WESTERN BELLS. A collection of Glee, Quartets, and Choruses. By Edward A. Perkins and Frederick H. Pense. Same publishers. There is something about the "good old tunes our fathers sang," which is much more enticing to us than most of the music of the day,—and that the same feeling prevails among our citizens is shown beyond a question by the crowded audiences which were drawn together by the "Old Folks' Concerts" in this city, last spring, and also the previous year. All lovers of old fashioned harmony will find this work contains not only the old favorites, but that the tunes are arranged in their original form, and that, besides the best tunes of early American authors, quite a number of Anthems and pieces by the greatest musical authors of the old world are added to the collection.

We are much pleased with the second work, whose title is given above. The "Western Bells" is not a mere new collection of Glee, &c., but a collection of almost entirely new pieces, much of the poetry and music having been written expressly for this work, and several valuable copyright pieces, only published in sheet form hitherto, having been added. For Glee Clubs, or for the home circle, this work is one of the best of the numerous musical publications of the day. The above works, or any of the sheet music of the day, sent free of postage on receipt of price.

IS IT COLDEST JUST BEFORE DAY?

There is a theory among some, that the coldest part of a cold night is just before day. Although this is not invariably the case, yet, from some experience formerly had with night rides in the practice of physics, we are inclined to think that it is generally the case that there is a pretty cold part a little before sunrise.

Bishop Whately has made some remark upon this subject, which we copy for those of our readers who may feel curious on such questions.

"Some say," says he, "that the earth is gradually cooling after the sun has set, and consequently the cold must have reached its height just before the return of the sun. This theory sounds plausible, but he thinks does not agree with the facts. The cold does not gradually increase during the night, but the temperature grows alternately warmer and colder, according as the sky is cloudy or clear. All who have been accustomed to night traveling must have often experienced such alternations in a single night,—and they also find that the cold at day break comes on very suddenly, so much so, that it catches the earth worms, which, on mild nights, lie out of their holes; you may often see a whole grassy plot strewn with their frozen bodies on a frosty morning. If the cold had not come very suddenly, they would have had time to withdraw to their holes. And any one who is accustomed to go out before daylight, will often, in the winter, or fall, find the roads full of liquid mud, half an hour before dawn, and at sunrise as hard as a rock."

LETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA.

Ma. Editor.—Comfortably domiciled in the quiet family of an aged "Friend," that most homelike of all temporary homes I have ever found in my wanderings, it has occurred to me that perhaps a few lines might not be unacceptable to the readers of the Farmer. The eastern man in perambulating the streets of this city for the first time, is continually reminded that he has left "Yankeeedom" far behind, and that he has entered the region of "broad-brims," and prim, modest drab silk bonnets worn on the heads of motherly and lovable looking women, whose "spheres" are not so enclined to the extent of side-walk obstructing, if his brain has been whirled and dizzied, as that of the writer has, by the multitudinous twistings and turnings, necessary to the "getting anywhere" through the tortuous mazes of the so-called streets of Boston, the new pleasure of walking the wide straight avenues, crossing at right angles and at regular intervals, will be so enticing, that the wearing out of his boot tops will be the first hint as to the amount of his post-dinner performance.

If dire necessity has ever compelled him, with pants tucked inside his boot-legs, and coat tail elevated to one hand, while the other vainly endeavors to pinch his nose into silence—to wade through that superlatively foul of all reservoirs of filth, New York; how will his olfactory rejoice as he snuffs the pure air all unaltered, and how will he pause instinctively at every crossing to examine his understandings, lest he should, inadvertently, transport some speck of dirt to soil the immaculately clean side-walk!

The style of building, especially of dwellings, is more uniform than in any other city I have ever visited. On every street in the better portions of the city, one sees the same three story brick houses in blocks, the same white doors, silver door and bell handles, and white shutters opening outside—and the same white, or light variegated marble door steps, projecting directly into the ample side-walk, with rarely a railing to protect the "shins" of the incautions, or "slightly elevated" passer by, from the sharp corners. This white sameness, universally glittering from a recent scrubbing, gives the city an air of staid purity and innocence, which brings over the uninitiated stranger something of the feeling, akin to awe and reverence, with which an "advanced bachelor" might be supposed to survey through the shop window the display of unsexed "daintiness."

But should the stranger limit his survey to the outside of this "better portion," how completely erroneous would be his impressions of actual life in this great city, at this time. Since giving you readers a few hasty and random letters in regard to my impressions of the great mania sweeping over the city, I have been continually reminded, and warning them against risking their bubble, and the whole land is resounding with lamentations for the consequences. Fortune, the result of a life time struggle, has vanished as if by the wand of the magician. But this is not all, nor the worst. The hard fisted laborer finds the savings of years of sweat and blood, swallowed up irretrievably in some magnificent, golden hoard, but now exploded chest, and his strength and skill a drag in the market. Many, very many, thousands of honest hard working citizens in this city, whose pleasure and pride it has been to support comfortably a dependent family, find themselves now at the commencement of winter, as the great meeting of the German mechanics and laborers the other evening so graphically expressed it, with "no work, no money, no credit, no bread."

Would it be strange if these men, as the pinchings of hunger, cold, and want, become more and still more severe upon their "wives and little ones," should become desperate, and should say unitedly, as one speaker remarked at their meeting, "we must have bread or battle?" It is to be hoped that the united efforts of the benevolent, and the municipal authorities, will avert anything of the kind.

The mayor, with praiseworthy zeal, calls upon the council of the city to commence a large amount of public works, and thus give employment to many, even if it be at low wages, and the united voice of the people and the press call for the same measure of relief. In many of the wards "Howard Associations" have been formed, and "Doras Societies," and these have resolved, "that if possible, no person willing to work shall want for food." An organized effort is being made to afford assistance to the thousands of seamstresses, and other young women out of employment, in getting situations in the far west. There are said to be in Iowa alone, more than a thousand families of "Friends," each willing to take one of these girls. I consider this as one of most truly benevolent, and also one of the most promising movements to obviate the disastrous effects of the crisis. Without assistance, many of these girls would sink beneath the continued pressure of privation and temptation, while if temporarily provided with good homes, a few years will find most of them happy wives and mothers.

Could your farmer readers, with barn and cellar filled to overflowing, and to whom the idea of wanting bread sounds strange—could they visit the habitations of want that I have visited—could they see as I have seen, the pinched gaunt form, and desponding countenance, speaking silently, but most eloquently of hunger—could they hear, as I have heard, the heart-rending tale of wrong, want, sickness, and perhaps crime—could they see and hear all, oh! how fervently would they offer a tribute of thanksgiving to the God Father who had given them and their sons and daughters, a home in the country. And could the young men and women of Maine, sons and daughters of farmers—to whom city life is so attractive, and success seems so certain in city pursuits—could they look "behind the scenes," "as I have done, they last six months, and see the blasted hopes, crushed energies, and ruined characters, everywhere washing up along the shores of that great tumultuous sea of city life, oh! how cheerfully, earnestly, and thankfully would they sing,

"A Farmer's life is life for me,
I own, I love it dearly."

Philadelphia, Nov. 2, 1887. S. K. T.

RETURN OF HON. NEAL DOW.

Hon. Neal Dow, of Portland, who has been absent in Europe during the past seven months, laboring in the cause of temperance, returned to this country on Thursday last, in the steamship Canada. On Friday evening he returned to his home in Portland. The Advertiser of Saturday says:—

A large assembly gathered in front of the City Hall last evening at 7 o'clock, and proceeded by Chandler's Band and a number of torches, marched to the western depot to welcome home Mr. Dow, now having been absent about seven months on his mission to Europe. At the depot the crowd was great, and as he entered the carriage prepared for him, he was loudly greeted with cheers. At a given signal the procession, with a long row of splendid torches, re-formed, and after escorting him to his home, where he made a brief speech, returned to the City Hall, and there dispersed.

The Advertiser states that a reception banquet will be given to Mr. Dow, during the present week, at Lancaster Hall. An address will be presented to Mr. Dow, and speeches will follow from distinguished speakers.

GATHERED NEWS FRAGMENTS, &c.

From Port au Prince, New York, Nov. 5. Advice from Port au Prince as to the 13th ult. Business was very dull. Orders had been received from the United States for remittances to be made in coin instead of produce, and gold, which was scarce, was in demand at high premiums. The coffee crop promised abundant yield. The yellow fever was on the increase but no deaths of Americans are reported.

High Tides. An extraordinary course of tides last week prevailed in the Penobscot, says the Bangor Whig. On Monday the water rose eighteen feet and two-tenths from low water mark; and on Tuesday, eighteen feet four-tenths, as registered at the steamer Sandford's wharf.

Destructive Hurricane in Ohio. Cincinnati, Nov. 5. A terrible hurricane was experienced a mile north of Frankfort, O., on the Marietta and Cincinnati Railroad this afternoon, destroying houses, barns, and fences. A two-story dwelling house was completely prostrated, and 8 or 10 persons seriously injured; two of them, it is thought, cannot recover.

A Movement of the People for Short Legislative Sessions. At the nominating convention in the Fifth Representative District in Hampshire county, Mass., held in Gardner last week, a vote was passed, instructing the candidate, Mr. T. E. Glazier, if elected, to use all the means in his power to bring the session of the Legislature to a close within the limit of sixty days, and at the expiration of seventy-five days, if the session was not closed, to resign his seat in the House.

Labor in the Country. A correspondent in Genesee, Livingston county, N. Y., to the Boston Traveller, says that in consequence of wet weather, a great portion of the corn, potato and buckwheat crops still remain unharvested, and, owing to scarcity of help, probably must remain so. Another, writing from New Michigan, makes the same complaint. He states that labor is always scarce there, but this year it seems particularly so, the crops being very abundant.

Warm Weather in England. The London correspondent of the New York Commercial Advertiser, under date of October 20th, says: "The weather remains unusually warm for the season, and the foliage of the country, untouched by the slightest breath of frost, presents all the green luxuriance of June. Heavy rains have brought the land into fine condition, and a very favorable time has been experienced for agricultural operations."

Reductions in Prices. Most articles of produce continue to fall in price, in the wholesale markets especially, but these lower rates must find their way into the retail trade. Beef and pork, especially, have fallen. The supply of butter and cheese is unusually large, and these articles, with flour, corn, potatoes, &c., must be cheapened. In Philadelphia combinations are formed against the high prices. Cash in hand is worth more than waiting for profit, as rates of produce inevitably will be reduced.

Mail Robber Arrested. Loren Bell, acting as deputy postmaster at Poreville, Wyoming county, Pa., has been arrested for robbing the United States mail of letters and money, and bound over in the sum of \$2,000. He confesses to have stolen over a dozen letters within six months, and that \$25 dollars is the smallest sum any of them contained.

Wholesale Massacre of Emigrants by Indians. The Los Angeles (California) Star gives an account of the massacre of an emigrant train on the way from the States of Missouri and Arkansas to California. The train was about one hundred and thirty strong, and all were killed except fifteen infants. The cause of the massacre is said to be the ill treatment of the Indians by the white emigrants.

At Armed Demonstration. Philadelphia, Nov. 6. Some excitement was occasioned in town to-day by a gang of about a dozen armed men, with muskets, appearing in the streets, carrying a banner bearing the inscription—"We will protect the Poor!"—and a loaf of bread pictorially on it. The police dispersed them, and captured all their guns.

The Robbery in Bath. The robbery of Chas. Poole's clothing store, in Bath, mentioned in another place, turns out to have been no robbery, after all. The Bath Organ of Saturday has the following:—

The goods supposed to have been taken from the store of Chas. Poole, a few nights since, have all been found snugly stowed away in the attic of a house in Bath. A plot was hatched to demand that we should go into details, and regard for the feelings of innocent friends prompts us to withhold as much as justice to others will admit. It is proper to say, however, that no forcible entrance of the store was made, that no night watch was freed from all censure for a supposed lack of vigilance, that no evidence is afforded of our city being infested with a band of thieves, and that the robbery was one of the most extensive ever made on the continent, and Mr. Ormsby deserves much credit for his exertions in behalf of the Bank. He is a Kennebec man, and a few known thieves from New England States. [Portland Advertiser, 5th.]

CHANGE OF TIME. The winter arrangement on the K. & P. and S. & K. Railroads commenced on Monday last week. Trains now run as follows:—

Leave Skowhegan for Augusta, Portland and Boston, at 8.30 A. M.
Leave Augusta for Bath, Portland and Boston, at 5.20 and 10.40 A. M.
Leave Portland for Skowhegan at 1.00 P. M.
Leave Portland for Augusta at 7.00 A. M. and 1.00 P. M.
On Saturday evenings a train leaves Portland for Augusta at 8.30 P. M.

WANTED TO KNOW—by one of our correspondents, what has become of the familiar sounds of the old South Parish bell, at morning, noon and eve. It is to be hoped that arrangements will soon be made for its regular ringing, as has always been the custom heretofore. From a luxury it has become a real necessity. Let us have the bell rung, again.

P. S. Tuesday noon the old bell "resumed" payment." May it be a long while ere it again "suspends."

THE GARDENER AND AUGUSTA COUPONS. There was a rumor, last week, that the coupons of the city bonds of Augusta and Gardiner had been dishonored in Boston. This proves to be without foundation. The Boston Journal of Wednesday says:—

"We learn that the interest on the coupons of the city of Gardiner and Augusta, &c., is now on deposit at the Shavemont Bank, and will be paid. The delay arises from a misunderstanding between one of the bank officers who is absent and his colleagues at the bank."

MAN KILLED ON THE GRAND TRUNK RAILROAD. Cornelius Harrington, a native of Nova Scotia, employed by the Grand Trunk Railway Company, was killed on Monday forenoon by coming in collision with a covered bridge a mile above the New Gloucester station. He was riding upon a wood train, to which was attached a box car of the train, which was unfortunately had climbed, where he was found in a bleeding and dying condition, by the conductor, after passing the bridge. [Portland Advertiser.]

DAMAGE BY THE FIRE. The late fire at the new Mill of Messrs. Tuttle, Kiddle & Co., of Skowhegan. The point of view caused such a pressure upon that point of the wall between the mill and the bulk-head, as to burst it out, throwing the whole wall into the river. It also lowered the stone under the south-west corner of the mill, so as to seriously endanger it.

COMING DOWN.

We are glad to perceive a downward tendency in many of the necessities as well as the luxuries of life. And well it is for those who are thrown out of employ at this season, that provisions do not rule so high as during the past year or two. They will find it hard enough getting through the winter, at the best. We clip the following, as being of interest to all who are about getting ready for the annual plum puddings and mince pies of Thanksgiving, from the Boston Journal of last Saturday:—

The price of raisins, a fruit of prime necessity in the celebration of our annual festival, seems likely to rule quite low this year, in comparison with what has been obtained several seasons past. There is a good supply in the market, but owing to the financial pressure, it is difficult to make sales at a remunerative profit to the importer. A portion of a cargo was sold at auction yesterday, at prices ranging from \$2 to \$2.25 per box for fresh Malaga bunch in layers. The same quality last year brought \$4.25 a \$4.37 per box, showing a falling off in price of one-half. The Spaniards have been poor, and the price of fruit heretofore, and it is hoped the experience of this season will tend to reduce the price of this delicious fruit hereafter, so that all classes may enjoy a mince pie with a plum in it.

DOINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

Saturday, Oct. 31, 1887.
A remonstrance presented, signed by R. M. Mills et al., against the order passed by the city government, granting permission to D. A. Fairbanks to divert the water flowing into Chestnut street from its natural course, and to be conveyed to a joint municipal collection consisting of Messrs. Dorr, Macomber and Wheeler, of the council, to which the Board of Aldermen joined Messrs. Patterson, Wyman, and Savage.

John Cross, member of the Board of Ward 7, vice Mr. Franklin A. Hewins deceased, appeared, was qualified and took his seat.
A petition from John A. Pettigill, et al., for a road from Bangor street to the burying ground, behind William's Family tomb, was presented, and referred to a joint special committee, to ascertain and report the cost and damage, of the road prayed for, and also what a new place of burial could be obtained for. Messrs. Pettigill, Phillips, and Cross, are the committee on the part of the council.

A communication was received from Mr. Ephraim Ballard, in relation to the settlement of his account as one of the assessors of the Poor for the year 1886, which was read and placed on file with the Clerk. [He promises to be here in January next and adjust matters.]
A communication was received from the Board of Assessors, from Samuel Silsbee, Esq., resigning the office of City Solicitor, which was read and accepted in consequence. [Mr. T. has recently been appointed Municipal Judge.]

An order passed, authorizing the street commissioner on east side of the river, to sell at auction the grubbing of that part of the Ward road recently located, suitable for a winter road, or to accept of J. Ward's offer to do the same, at his discretion.
Petition of M. M. Swan for compensation for grading road near his dwelling house, was read and referred to the committee on Highways, in concurrence.

A proposition was received from Daniel Wilkins, Esq., at Agent for the Kennebec Company, offering to pay one-half of the expense of certain repairs of roads near said Factory. The proposition was reduced to writing and referred to the City Solicitor, who is to report on it.
The roll of accounts No. 1—was then passed upon, and the council adjourned. [Kennebec Journal.]

CASE OF THE BARQUE DAVID NICKELS. The loss of the captain, mate, and two seamen, belonging to the barque David Nickels, of Scarboro, Me., and the arrival of the vessel at St. Augustine, on the 18th ult., in charge of the second mate, cook, and one sailor, has already been announced. Although not an impossible case, the story as related by the second mate is a rather improbable one, and should be thoroughly investigated.

It is rather unlikely that Captain Bond would have been harpooning dolphins at St. Augustine, when it must have been clear to him that he did fall overboard in the act of doing so, as asserted by the second mate, it is not at all likely that the mate at that time would have left the ship in charge of the second mate, and the heirs of the U. S. troops. The apparent cause of the loss of the vessel, was that the vessel had been in the act of doing so, as asserted by the second mate, it is not at all likely that the mate at that time would have left the ship in charge of the second mate, and the heirs of the U. S. troops. The apparent cause of the loss of the vessel, was that the vessel had been in the act of doing so, as asserted by the second mate, it is not at all likely that the mate at that time would have left the ship in charge of the second mate, and the heirs of the U. S. troops. 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